



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
March 28, 2003**

**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Don Feith
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552**

PORTSMOUTH MAN SENTENCED

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Charles Veillette, 32, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was sentenced by the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to ten years of imprisonment based upon Veillette's plea of guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery. Veillette was also sentenced to three years of supervised release that will begin after he is released from prison.

Veillette was indicted on August 29, 2002, on charges relating to the planned robbery of a Portsmouth, New Hampshire, drug store and the planned robbery of a unknown pharmaceutical warehouse, as well as drug possession conspiracy and gun possession charges. The Court found that Veillette was an organizer or manager of the robbery conspiracies. Furthermore, the Court concluded that Veillette was involved in a plan to escape from the Rockingham County House of Corrections and denied Veillette any downward adjustment to his sentence based upon acceptance of responsibility for the offenses.

The charges were the result of a two month long investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Portsmouth Police Department. Under a plea agreement between the parties, the government asked the court to dismiss the drug possession conspiracy and gun charges after the ten year sentence was imposed.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Today's sentence concludes our office's prosecution of three individuals who devised a plan to create and distribute a potentially dangerous new drug, which they called Zabam. To accomplish their goals, these individuals acquired weapons, engaged in surveillance, planned escape routes, and took additional steps to acquire body armor, disguises, and even more powerful firearms. Only through the exceptional efforts of the dedicated law enforcement agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Portsmouth Police Department were we successful in thwarting this criminal enterprise and avoiding any harm to private citizens. I appreciate the hard work so professionally performed by those law enforcement agencies." Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith prosecuted this case.